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RICAL CATECHISM,

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COMPRISING

IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING ITEMS
important and interesting items

IN THE
in the

HISTORY OF THE

UNITED STATES.

United States
ELEVENTH EDITION — WITH ADDITIONS.

HENRY TUTTLE, PUBLISHER.

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PREFACE.

Preface

Having formerly been for some time engaged in teaching, the Author has seen the necessity of some study to fill up the interim between Geography and Arithmetic. It is true, that most children, being put at Arithmetic too early, acquire a distaste for it, because they do not understand it. This often discourages them, and ruins many who otherwise would have been good scholars. History, all will agree, may here be introduced to advantage. The present is simple and short, being barely the outlines of the history of our country. Its size and price will enable it to be purchased and studied by every person. With these reflections, it is commended to the notice of parents and teachers. He is more solicitous that a book of this kind should be adopted in our schools, than that this individual work should succeed merely because he is the author. The former editions having met with an immediate sale, (the sixth edition, of five thousand, and the seventh of seven thousand five hundred copies, and the eighth of ten thousand copies, the ninth edition of five thousand copies, the tenth edition of ten thousand copies,) the eleventh edition of five thousand copies is now offered.

Gift: Mrs. Walter B. Franklin

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HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

Has the Continent of America been known for a long time?

No; only about three hundred and forty six years.

By whom was it discovered?

By Christopher Columbus.

Was it not inhabited before?

Yes; it was inhabited by savages, or Indians.

Why did Columbus think of finding land on this side the ocean?

He found the bodies of two men on the shore, of a different complexion from the natives of Europe, after the wind had been blowing from this way.

To whom did he apply for ships and men to come with him to search for the American continent?

To his native country, Genoa; to Henry VII. King of England; and finally to Ferdinand and Isabella, King and Queen of Spain.

Who granted him a fleet of ships, and men and provisions?

Ferdinand and Isabella.

From what place did he set sail?

From Palos, in Spain, in the year 1492.

What course did he sail?

West.

What singular event occurred?

The needle in his compass, which had formerly pointed to the North, was seen to incline towards the West.

What did the men say to this?

They feared that they should all perish, and threatened to throw their commander into the sea, if he would not return.

What did he propose to them?

That if they would continue on three days longer, and did not then find land, he would return.

Did they find land before the end of three days?

They did; on the third night, about midnight, they saw a light.

What Island did they first discover?

San Salvador.

From what does the Continent derive its name?

From America Vespucci.

Had he a right to that honor?

No; it properly belonged to Columbus, the first discoverer.

Who attempted first to establish a settlement in America?

Jasper Cologni, the head of the Protestant sect in France.

Who are Protestants?

All who profess the Christian religion that are not Idol Worshippers.

Where was the first settlement made in North America?

At Quebec, the capital of Canada, in 1608.

Where was the first settlement made in the United States?

At Jamestown, in Virginia.

What principal man came over with the first settlers?

Captain John Smith.

Was he ever taken prisoner by the Indians?

He was.

Who saved his life?

Pocahontas, the daughter of the Indian King.

How did she do it?

She interceded with her father to save his life, when the Indians were about to put him to death.

Was she afterwards a friend to the English?

Yes; when the Indians had laid a plan to destroy all the whites, she came a long journey to Jamestown on a dark and dreary night, and told Captain Smith.

What became of her?

She was carried to England, and married to a very respectable man by the name of Rolfe.

Are any of her descendants living in Virginia?

Yes; some of the most respectable families in the State, claim to be descendants from her.

Was Captain Smith ever chosen President?

Yes; and he was the means of preserving the Colony from the cruelty and treachery of the Indians.

Were slaves introduced into Virginia soon after its settlement?

They were; but the people believed it to be inhuman to hold them, and did all in their power to prevent it.

What did the officers of the King do ?

They favored the practice of transporting the wretched negroes from their homes, and keeping them in bondage for their own convenience.

Who were the first settlers in Massachusetts ?

A Mr. John Robinson and a part of his congregation.

Why did they come to this country ?

That they might be allowed to worship God, in their own way, without being molested.

Did they suffer many hardships ?

Yes ; nearly half their number perished before the next Spring, from the cold and for want of food.

Who came over soon after ?

A company of Puritans.

Why were they called puritans ?

They were so called by their enemies, who ridiculed them for their strictness in religion.

What was the cause of the first war with the Indians ?

The Indians feared that the whites would become so numerous as to overcome them.

With what tribes was it carried on ?

The Pequods and Narragansetts.

Who of the Judges that condemned King Charles I. to death, came over to this country ?

Whaley and Goffe, who lived and died here.

How many towns and villages did New-England contain fifty years after the settlement at Plymouth ?

One hundred and twenty towns, and as many thousand inhabitants.

What were the causes of the wars with the Indians ?

They had sold their land to the white people, who had cleared it up and destroyed their game.

Who was the leader in this war ?

Philip, a sachem of a tribe living within the boundaries of Plymouth and Rhode Island.

What was his character ?

A fearless, ambitious, and desperate soldier as ever stood at the head of an army.

Were many of the whites destroyed ?

Yes ; they were often shot when they opened their doors in the morning, in their fields, and at church.—

Many villages were burnt, and the people within killed or carried off by the Indians.

Did the white people finally conquer the Indians?

Yes; they killed one thousand warriors, and took three hundred prisoners.

Was Philip killed?

Yes; by one of his own men, whose brother he had shot for proposing to surrender to the whites.

When was New-Hampshire made a separate colony?

In the year 1680.

What took place in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692?

The people believed that there were witches among them, who had the power of bewitching others.

What was done with those who were supposed to be witches?

Nineteen persons were foolishly put to death, and many more were imprisoned.

When was the first settlement made in New-Hampshire?

In the year 1623.

How many persons met at Exeter to form a civil government?

Thirty-five.

Did this Colony suffer from Indian wars?

Yes; the town of Dover, and the settlement on Oyster river, suffered severely.

Who came over in 1719?

About one hundred families, mostly Presbyterians, from the North of Ireland.

What did they bring with them?

Potatoes, and the foot spinning-wheel.

Who settled Hartford, in Connecticut?

Rev. Mr. Hooker, and about one hundred men, women, and children belonging to his congregation.

Where did they go from?

Cambridge, in Massachusetts.

How long did they travel through the wilderness?

Two weeks.

How did they subsist?

On the milk of the cows they drove with them.

Had the Colony of Connecticut any wars with the Indians?

Yes; they suffered as much, or more, than any others, from the Pequods.

When was Yale College founded ?

In the year 1708.

From what does it derive its name ?

From Elihu Yale, who made several donations to it.

By whom was Rhode Island settled ?

By Roger Williams.

How did he obtain the lands of the Indians ?

By purchase.

What was his character ?

A very benevolent man. He not only endeavored to do all the good he was able among the white people, but he learned the Indian language, and instructed and improved them.

Did the Colony increase in population ?

It did.

What was the reason of it ?

Because his government tolerated all religions.

What was the number of inhabitants in less than one hundred years after it was settled ?

Eighteen thousand.

How many in 126 years after it was settled ?

Forty thousand.

When was Brown University founded ?

In the year 1764.

Who gave 5,000 dollars towards it ?

Mr. Brown.

Why did Williams call the place where he settled, Providence ?

In gratitude to God for directing and preserving him, and who had disposed the Indians to sell him land.

By whom was New York discovered ?

By Henry Hudson, who gave the name to the Hudson river.

By whom was it first settled ?

By the Dutch, in 1613.

What was New York called by the Indians ?

Manhatta.

Whence do New York and Albany derive their names ?

From the Dukes of York and Albany.

How long since New York was made a city ?

About one hundred and sixty-three years.

What were the negroes of New York accused of, a little before the Revolutionary War ?

Of attempting to burn the city, and to make one of their number Governor.

Were any put to death?

Yes; fourteen were burned, eighteen were hung, and seventy-one were transported.

Is it probable that they had any intention of burning the city?

It was not proved sufficiently clear to justify them in putting so many to death.

When was George Clinton appointed Governor?

In 1743.

By whom was New Jersey settled?

By the Dutch, the Swedes, and Finns, in the year 1624.

Why was it called New Jersey?

After the Governor of the Island of Jersey, in England.

When was Princeton College founded?

In 1738.

By whom was Delaware settled?

By the Swedes and Finns.

What was it called?

"The Territories."

How was it governed for twenty years?

As a part of Pennsylvania.

Who was the founder of Pennsylvania?

William Penn.

Why was this tract of land granted to him by the King?

As a compensation for services which his father had rendered to the British nation.

To what religious denomination did he belong?

To the Quakers.

At what rate did he sell his land to the first settlers?

Twenty pounds for every thousand acres.

How was it rented?

At one penny yearly, per acre.

Did Penn always live in peace with the Indians?

Yes; he cultivated peace with them, and agreed to settle all their differences, by the judgments of men, chosen on both sides.

What kind of government did he form?

A government calculated both to support the ruling authority, and protect the rights of the people.

Did Penn's laws support morality?

They did; they expressly forbade any thing calculated to make men cruel or wicked.

For what are the Pennsylvanians noted?

For industry, economy, and good order.

Who first attempted a settlement in Maryland?

A Lord Baltimore.

Who was the first Governor?

His son, Leonard Calvert.

Who directed the affairs of the Colony for a long time?

Cecil, his eldest son, a man of understanding and benevolence.

Who first settled North Carolina?

A few Virginians, who were persecuted for their religion.

Whom did they request to form for them a Constitution?

The celebrated John Locke.

Did the people receive it?

No; it was too aristocratic for Republicans.

What Indians did they have war with?

The Tuscarora and Coree tribes.

Where was the first place settled in South Carolina?

Charleston.

From what did it derive its name?

King Charles II; who then reigned in England.

Did this Colony suffer from Indian wars?

Yes; the Indians attempted to extirpate the whites, but they were finally vanquished.

What were some of the peculiar laws of Georgia?

That the lands should descend to the male children only; they also prohibited the use of rum, and the importation of slaves.

What celebrated Methodist preacher came over to Georgia?

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist society; a pious and popular preacher.

Who came over two years afterwards?

Rev. George Whitfield, one of the most eloquent and pious ministers the world ever produced.

What did he attempt to do?

To found an Orphan Asylum, where poor children might be supported and educated.

With whom did the Georgians have a war?

With the Spaniards.

What did they soon begin to cultivate?

Rice and Indigo.

What is the war called that took place in America, in 1756?

The "French War."

Whom was it between?

The French and English.

Which side did the Americans join?

The English.

Why?

Because they were under the British government.

Where were the English settlements?

They occupied the whole coast on the Atlantic, from Newfoundland to Florida.

Where were the French settlements?

On the river St. Lawrence, from its mouth to Montreal; they also had some trading houses on Lake Ontario; they also founded the city of New-Orleans, at the South.

What was the cause of the war?

They took some English traders prisoners, who were trading on the Ohio, and carried them to Canada.

Whom did Governor Dinwiddie send as a messenger to the commander of the French army?

George Washington.

What was his age at this time?

Twenty-one years.

How did he perform this duty?

With great bravery and expedition.

Was he afterwards of service to the British army?

Yes; he saved a great part of the army from being massacred by the Indians, when General Braddock was killed.

Who was the British Commander?

General Webb.

Who was the French Commander?

General Montcalm.

What distinguished General was killed at Quebec?

General Wolfe.

When was peace concluded?

In the year 1763.

What was the result?

The French gave up to England all her Northern settlements in America.

What was the cause of the Revolutionary war?

The British nation attempted to impose unreasonable taxes upon the Colonies.

What did they require?

That the American Colonies should assist in defraying the expenses of the French war.

Why did the Colonies refuse?

Because they had already borne their full part of the expense.

Of what did the Americans complain as to the manner in which taxes were imposed upon them?

That Great Britain desired to tax them without allowing them to be represented in Parliament.

Was this unjust?

Yes; it was treating them as slaves rather than as freemen.

How did they attempt to impose a tax upon the Colonies?

By laying a tax upon the paper upon which notes and other obligations were written.

What was this act called?

The Stamp Act.

How did they oblige the Americans to use this paper?

They passed a law that no obligation should be valid in law, unless it was written upon stamp paper.

Did the Colonists resist against the oppression?

Yes; associations were formed in most of the States to resist this law, many of the houses of British officers were entered, and several of them resigned their offices.

What title was given to the Stamp Act, in New York?

“The folly of England and the ruin of America.”

On what articles did Great Britain lay a tax?

On teas, glass, &c.

How was this resisted by the people of Boston?

About twenty persons, in the dress of Mohawk Indians, boarded a vessel in the Harbor, and threw three hundred and forty-two chests of tea into the ocean.

Who was an able defender of the American rights in the British Parliament?

William Pitt, Earl of Chatham.

Where was the first battle fought?

On Breed's Hill, (now called Bunker's Hill,) near Boston, in June, 1775.

How many were killed and wounded of the respective parties?

One thousand and fifty four of the British, and four hundred and fifty-three of the Americans.

What distinguished man was killed?

Doctor Warren, a firm Patriot; he had a few days before been elected Major General; he was a man beloved by all the advocates of freedom.

Who was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the American forces?

George Washington; he had been distinguished for his military skill and bravery in the French war, and was admired and beloved by his country.

What was the result of the expedition against Canada?

It ultimately failed; although in many instances, the greatest bravery was exhibited by the American soldiers.

What difficulties did they encounter?

All the difficulties incident to travelling through a frozen and uninhabited country; they were visited with famine and disease, and in almost every engagement were obliged to contend with an enemy far superior to them in numbers.

What brave officer was killed?

General Montgomery, in attempting to storm the fort at Quebec; one of the most daring enterprises that ever was undertaken by man.

Was his death much lamented?

It was; he was one of the most devoted friends of liberty.

What were his parting words to his wife?

"You shall never blush for your Montgomery."

Did Congress erect a monument to his memory?

They did; and his bones have since been removed to New York.

Who were the Committee appointed by Congress to prepare a Declaration of Independence?

Messrs. Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Sherman and Livingston.

When was it adopted?

On the 4th day of July, 1776.

What was the purport of it ?

That they believed all men to be created equal; that the conduct of the King and Parliament of Great Britain was purely tyrannical; and that the united Colonies were, and of right ought to be, free and independent States.

What enterprise did General Washington perform at Trenton ?

With 2,400 men he crossed the Delaware river, surprised a body of Hessians, took 900 prisoners, and recrossed the river, losing but nine of his own men.

Who were victorious at Trenton and Princeton ?

The Americans.

What brave officer was killed at Princeton ?

General Mercer, and several others; and Lieutenant James Monroe, afterwards President of the United States, was wounded.

Who was sent to France to solicit assistance ?

Doctor Franklin, and others.

Did the French ministers assist the Americans ?

Yes; they allowed arms to be taken from the public arsenals and conveyed to this country.

What distinguished young nobleman came over to this country ?

The Marquis de La Fayette; he most disinterestedly volunteered his services, without pay, in the American cause.

What was the fate of the British army under General Burgoyne ?

After repeated battles, he surrendered his whole army to the Americans, under General Gates, on the 17th of October, 1777.

What effect had this victory upon the Americans ?

It rejoiced and encouraged them.

How were the British soldiers treated ?

As friends.

Were the Americans equally victorious at Germantown ?

No; they unfortunately lost twelve hundred men, and the British lost but six hundred.

Was this owing to want of valor in the American soldiers ?

No; the British, in their retreat, threw themselves into a large stone house, where they were safe themselves, and which enabled them to turn a most destructive fire upon the Americans.

What was the state of the American army, under General Washington, at the end of the year 1778?

They were destitute of shoes, and might often be tracked by the blood of their feet; yet such was their attachment to liberty, that they endured their sufferings without a murmur.

What means did the British use to seduce Gen. Reed to persuade the Americans to give up the war, and again submit to the government of Great Britain?

They offered him ten thousand pounds, and any office which the King could give him in the Colonies.

What was his answer?

"I am not worth purchasing; but such as I am, the King of Great Britain is not rich enough to buy me."

What was the result of the battle of Monmouth?

The British retreated, and lost five hundred men, while the Americans lost three hundred.

What was the conduct of General Gray, a British officer, at Tappan?

He refused all quarters to his prisoners, who cried for mercy.

What was the result of the war, in the year 1778?

The British had gained nothing in subduing the Colonies; and the Americans continued to exert every nerve for their independence.

What distinguished officer was killed at Savannah?

Count Pulaski, a celebrated Polish nobleman; who after despairing of liberty in his own country, generously volunteered to acquire it for ours.

What was the effect of General Sullivan's expedition against the Indians in the western part of the State of New York?

He destroyed their houses and towns, and returned, losing but forty men.

How many British prisoners were taken at Stony Point, on the Hudson river?

Five hundred; and fifty others were killed.

Who was the Commander?

General Anthony Wayne.

What was remarkable in this victory?

The Americans entered the Fort with fixed bayonets; not having their guns loaded.

What did Congress present to General Wayne?

A gold medal.

How did Congress pay their army?

In paper money.

Did this retain its value?

No; thirty dollars became to be worth no more than one in silver.

Did this bear hard on the army?

Yes; the pay of the highest officer was scarce sufficient to provide necessary clothing.

What did General Arnold attempt to do at West Point?

To give up the American Fort to the British.

Did he effect it?

No; the plot was revealed by the capture of Major Andre.

What was done with Major Andre?

He was hung as a spy.

What did he offer his captors to release him?

A gold watch, and a purse of gold.

Was it right to hang a man because he was a spy?

This is according to the law of nations.

What was the result of the battle of Cowpens?

One hundred British were killed, and five hundred made prisoners.

What was the result of the battle of Charleston?

The whole American Army was surrendered prisoners of war.

Was this owing to misconduct on the part of the Americans?

No; but the force of the enemy amounted to three times the number of the Americans.

What was the conduct of the British Colonel Tarleton, at the Maxhaws?

He barbarously refused quarters to the American soldiers, when they cried for mercy.

What effect had this, and other similar conduct of the enemy upon the minds of the Americans?

It only increased their hatred towards the British, and made them more resolved to procure their liberty or die in the attempt.

What was the success of the American army under General Sumpter?

They defeated the enemy a number of times, and in one engagement only nine escaped out of three hundred.

Were the British afterwards successful at the South?

They were; and Cornwallis thought that he had suppressed every feeling of patriotism in that region of the country.

Was there any discontent in the American army at the close of the year 1780?

There was ; the soldiers had doubtless just reason of complaint ; they were not paid, or supplied with provisions, probably, even to an extent equal to the power of Congress.

Did their sufferings induce them to give up the cause of their country ?

No.

What evidence is there that they remained true to their country ?

Several British emissaries met them at Princeton, and offered them large rewards if they would enlist in the British service ; but they refused these offers.

What did the United States do to relieve the sufferings of the soldiers ?

They raised three months pay, and forwarded it to them in specie.

Why was this better than if it had been to the same amount in notes ?

The notes which Congress had issued had depreciated so much, that scarcely any one would receive them.

Did any others, besides the army, suffer from the depreciation of the paper currency ?

Yes ; as this was almost the only money in the country, many of the inhabitants had their whole property in it.—Many lost a part, and some their whole property by it.

Was not this hard ?

It was for many ; but we ought to consider that this was lost in a cause to which we owe our liberty.

What particular providence induced the Americans to believe that they were favored of Heaven ?

At two several times, the rivers Catawba and Yadkin were rendered impassable by heavy falls of rain, when the British and American armies lay on opposite sides of them ; and when the British, being greatly superior, were endeavoring to overtake and destroy the Americans.

What was the result of the battle of the 8th of September, 1781 ?

The loss was great on both sides. The Americans lost nearly 500, and the British 700 men.

What act of cruelty did the British soldiery commit at Fort Griswold ?

The British officer, after Colonel Ledyard had delivered up his sword, with unparalleled meanness and cruelty, plunged it into his bosom ; and this example was followed by his soldiers, with a slaughter of 120 American soldiers, who were supplicating for mercy.

What extraordinary victory was obtained on the 19th of October, 1781?

Cornwallis surrendered his whole army, amounting to seven thousand men, as prisoners of war.

Did the Americans there retaliate the cruelty and barbarity of the British at Fort Griswold?

No; they generously spared each man, the moment he ceased to resist.

How ought we to esteem the conduct of the American soldiery, compared with that of the British?

When we consider the example which had so recently been set by the enemy, the conduct of the Americans appears magnanimous beyond description.

What effect had this victory on the people of the United States?

They united in rendering, with grateful hearts, thanksgiving and praise to the Giver of all good, for the decisive victory which he had enabled them to gain.

What effect did this victory have upon the British Parliament?

This loss of a second entire army, extinguished the hope that they would be able to subject the Colonies.

What effect had it upon some distinguished patriots?

Some were so overjoyed that they were deprived of reason; and one aged patriot in Philadelphia (the Door-keeper of Congress,) actually died of joy.

Who were appointed ministers on the part of the United States to treat with the British Parliament?

John Adams, Benj. Franklin, John Jay, Henry Laurens.

Who was appointed on the part of the Parliament?

Mr. Oswald.

When was peace concluded?

On the 3d day of September, 1783.

What was the result of the treaty?

The great object for which the patriots contended and in which they had embarked their lives, was fully attained. "The independence of the States was acknowledged."

When was the American army disbanded?

In November, 1783. They then returned to their homes, and enjoyed, with their fellow-citizens, the liberty they had purchased with much labor and self-denial. General Washington, having resigned his office of Commander, retired to Mount Vernon, beloved and respected.

What was the cause of discontent in many, after the close of the war?

Many were deeply in debt, which discouraged commerce.

What did Congress apply to the States for power to do?

For the privilege of regulating commerce, and collecting a revenue for it.

Which of the States refused?

New York.

What did the State of Massachusetts attempt to enforce?

That the legislature should issue paper money, in order to enable the people to pay their debts.

When was the Constitution of the United States formed?

A Convention of all the States (except Rhode Island) met at Philadelphia, for the purpose, in 1787.

Who was President of this Convention?

The venerable George Washington; equally illustrious as a soldier and a statesman.

How long were they engaged in forming this Convention?

About four months.

Was this an arduous task?

It was truly so; it was no less than forming the rules by which a free people should govern themselves.

Have posterity honored the labor of these veterans of the Revolution?

They have; amid all the storms and factions of more than half a century, "this Constitution" has stood like a venerable monument, revered and admired by all the friends of liberty.

Of what is the government of the United States composed?

Of three parts, legislative, the executive, and judicial.

Of what does the legislative department consist?

Of the Senate and the House of Representatives; and is styled the Congress.

How often is the Senate chosen, and by whom?

Once in six years by the State Legislatures.

How often are the members of the House of Representatives chosen, and by whom?

Once in two years, by the people.

In whom is the executive power vested?

In the President.

By whom, and for how long is he chosen?

He is chosen for four years, by electors, appointed as the State Legislatures shall prescribe.

What offices devolve upon the President by the Constitution ?

He is Commander-in-Chief of the land and naval forces ; he nominates to the Senate all officers of the general government ; and with the advice and consent of two-thirds of that body, ratifies treaties.

What are the duties of the Vice-President ?

He is chosen at the same time, and in the same manner as the President ; performs all the duties of President when that office is vacant by death, resignation or removal, and is President of the Senate.

Can the President, or either House of Representatives, pass a law of themselves ?

No ; both Houses must concur, and the President must approve of it.

What if the President does not approve of a resolution passed by a majority of both Houses of Congress ?

It cannot become a law, unless it is passed by two-thirds of both Houses.

What powers are vested in Congress ?

To declare war ; to raise and support armies ; to provide and maintain a navy ; to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises ; to regulate commerce ; to coin money ; and all other powers of a general and national character.

In what does the judicial power consist ?

It is vested in a Supreme Court, and such inferior Courts as Congress may establish ; its authority extends to all cases of maritime jurisdiction, to all controversies between citizens of different States, and between foreigners and citizens.

Who was chosen first President ?

George Washington.

Who was elected Vice-President ?

John Adams ; a distinguished civilian, patriot and statesman.

Were Washington and Adams re-elected ?

They were.

Who was the opposing candidate to Mr. Adams ?

George Clinton, of New York.

Who was appointed, in 1791, to lead the war against the Indians ?

General Wayne.

Did he effect a treaty?

He did; one which was long and faithfully observed, and which secured peace to our Northern frontiers.

Who was chosen second President?

John Adams.

Who was the opposing candidate?

Thomas Jefferson.

To what office was Mr. Jefferson elected?

To that of Vice-President.

When did General Washington die?

On the 14th of December, 1799.

How did Congress honor his memory?

The Speaker's chair was shrouded in black, and the members wore black during the rest of the session.

In what language was his character described?

"First in war; first in peace; and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Who was elected third President?

Thomas Jefferson.

Who was elected Vice-President?

Aaron Burr.

What was the number of inhabitants in the year 1809?

Five millions, three hundred and nineteen thousand, seven hundred and ninety-two.

Who was the fourth President?

James Madison.

Was Mr. Madison re-elected?

He was.

Who was the opposing candidate?

De Witt Clinton, of New York.

When was war declared between Great Britain and the United States?

On the 18th of June, 1812.

What were the causes of this war?

One principal cause was the habit of impressing citizens of the United States, and obliging them to serve on board British vessels.

Was this practice continued for a long time?

Yes; ever since the peace of 1783, and all remonstrances against it appeared in vain.

What was another cause of this war?

Great Britain and France being at enmity, each had

passed laws which prohibited the United States, and other neutral nations, from trading with the other.

Why was not war also declared against France ?

Bonaparte revoked the decrees on the part of France, which prohibited the United States from trading with England.

What were these decrees called ?

The Berlin and Milan decrees.

Did Great Britain refuse to revoke the "orders in council" which prohibited the United States from trading with France ?

Yes ; although it was agreed by their minister, Mr. Erskine, that it should be done as soon as Bonaparte should revoke the "Berlin and Milan decrees."

In what sense did these decrees of France and Great Britain affect the United States ?

It restrained commerce ; which injured very materially, all who were engaged in it, and produced a general stagnation of business of every kind.

Where were the Americans most successful ?

On the ocean, and on the lakes ; although several victories were obtained on land, the success was very variable.

Who was appointed Commander in-Chief of our armies, in this war ?

General Dearborn, of Massachusetts.

What mortifying circumstance occurred in Canada ?

General Hull, who, it was hoped, would have conquered the whole country, surrendered his army prisoners.

Was he censured ?

He was ; and justly, for his want of decision and energy, if nothing more.

How many British vessels were captured during the first seven months of the war ?

More than five hundred.

Where was the principal theatre of this war ?

Canada.

Who commanded the American fleet on Lake Erie ?

Commodore Perry.

Did he obtain a victory over the British fleet ?

He did ; and was much honored for his bravery, as well as the bravery of his men.

Who was sent against the Southern Indians ?

General Jackson.

Was he victorious?

Yes; after many bloody battles, in which the Indians fought with great desperation.

What was done by Congress to meet the expenses of the war?

The President was authorized to borrow twenty-five millions of dollars, and to issue Treasury notes to the amount of five millions.

What contributed to render peace with Great Britain doubtful, unless on disadvantageous terms?

There being an universal peace in Europe, England was enabled to bring all its forces to bear against us.

What was the result of the battle of Chippewa?

The British were repulsed with the loss of 500.

Who were victorious at the battle of Niagara?

The Americans gained the field, but they lost the greatest number of men.

What was the result of the battle on Lake Champlain?

The Americans were decisively victorious, both on the lake and in the land army.

What occurred in the city of Washington?

The city was captured by the British, and many of the public buildings were burnt; an event, however, which was rather disgraceful to the enemy; as a sense of honor generally spares the Capitol from destruction among civilized nations.

What was the result of the battle of New Orleans?

Two thousand of the enemy were killed, while but seven were lost on the part of the Americans.

On what terms was peace concluded?

The orders in council, the principal cause of the war, were repealed.

When did this event take place?

In December, 1814.

Have the United States enjoyed peace ever since?

They have; and they have less fear from enemies abroad, than from corruption at home.

By whom was the government administered immediately after the war?

By James Monroe; who was elected President, in 1816, by a large majority over his competitor.

Was Mr. Monroe re-elected?

Yes; and by an unanimous vote of the electoral college.

Who succeeded him?

John Quincy Adams; son of John Adams, a former President.

What was remarkable in his election?

There were four candidates for the office; neither of them having a majority of all the electoral votes, as is required by the United States' Constitution, it devolved on the States, as represented in Congress, to make choice out of the three highest in votes.

Who were these?

Andrew Jackson had 99 votes; John Q. Adams had 84 votes; Henry Clay had 37 votes; and William H. Crawford had 41 votes. The candidates, therefore, were Messrs. Jackson, Adams, and Crawford. Mr. Clay's friends, generally, gave their weight and influence to Mr. Adams, who was consequently elected.

How long did he serve?

One term only, or four years.

Who was his successor?

Andrew Jackson was elected by a large majority over Mr. Adams, his sole competitor.

Who were General Jackson's competitors at his re-election?

Mr. Clay of Kentucky, the National Republican candidate, and William Wirt, of Virginia, the Anti-Masonic candidate.

What was remarkable in this election?

That though, in many of the States, the National Republican and Anti-Masonic parties made common cause by uniting their forces, yet the great popularity of Gen. Jackson secured his re-election, by a large majority.

What was the state of public opinion towards General Jackson, immediately after his re-election?

The wisdom, energy, and prudence he displayed in relation to the threatened secession of South Carolina from the Union—and particularly his proclamation on that subject—united in his favor nearly all the "good men and true" of all parties, except the Nullifiers of South Carolina, and literally made him and his measures a tower of strength, and a pledge of the Union's safety.

Who was General Jackson's successor?

Martin Van Buren, of New York.

Who were his competitors ?

General William Henry Harrison, of Ohio ; Hugh L. White, of Tennessee ; Daniel Webster, of Massachusetts ; and William P. Mangum, of North Carolina. The latter of whom received only the electoral vote of South Carolina.

What is remarkable in relation to the Presidents generally ?

But three of the eight have had sons—the sixth is the son of the second, and the sixth is one of the three who have had male progeny.

What of their length and activity of life ?

All have lived to a good old age. Monroe was an active magistrate in his native State, till just previous to his death. Madison continued in that humble office until his death, which took place June 28th, 1836. J. Q. Adams is now an active and useful member of Congress.

What has been remarkable in the death of those who have departed ?

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4th, 1826, exactly fifty years after the Declaration of Independence (framed by the first and advocated by the latter) had been adopted by the Revolutionary Congress. James Monroe also died on the 4th of July, 1831.

From what part of Europe did most of the first settlers of America emigrate ?

From Great Britain, the most enlightened country of the Eastern world.

What was their object in coming to this country ?

The establishment of civil and religious liberty, which were denied to them in Europe.

What were the governments of Europe ?

Mostly Monarchical.

What is a monarchical government ?

When the country is ruled by one man, called a King or Emperor.

What kind of government did the first emigrants to this country wish for ?

One in which the people, or representatives elected by them, should hold the supreme power.

What were the religious establishments of Europe ?

They consisted of richly endowed establishments, in which the clergy were independent of the people, and mostly regardless of their spiritual good.

What kind of religious government did they wish?

One which was more simple, in which men should be selected for ministers on account of their piety, and who should be supported by the benevolence of the people.

How were estates generally divided?

The most of the property descended to the oldest son, by which the younger sons and daughters were often doomed to poverty, although descended from rich parents.

Did they make a law different from this?

Yes; property was divided equally among the children.

Is the government of the United States sustained at less expense than that of Great Britain?

Yes; the salary of the King of Great Britain is nearly two millions, five hundred thousand dollars; that of the President of the United States is but twenty-five thousand dollars, and the salaries of all inferior officers of government nearly in the same proportion.

What is the difference in the expense of the military peace establishments of Great Britain and the United States?

Great Britain expends for this purpose thirty-four millions of dollars, while the United States expends but little more than five millions.

What are the comparative taxes paid by the citizens of the several governments?

While an Englishman or Irishman pays fifteen dollars, an American pays but two.

What effect does this have upon the enterprize of the inhabitants?

While the industry of the one is checked by the thought that a considerable part of his labors must be expended for the support of government, the other feels that he is laboring for himself, his taxes being so small a consideration as not to affect him in the least.

What is the employment of the greater proportion of the citizens of the United States?

That of agriculture, to which they are invited by the fertility of the soil, and the abundance of land,

What is the produce of the States?

Almost every vegetable which may be used for the food of man, and almost every material used in manufacture.

What are the staple articles of the farmer?

Wheat, rye, corn, flax, hemp, oats and potatoes; and

his pastures, besides affording great quantities of butter, produce an abundance of fat cattle and sheep.

Where is the most wheat raised ?

In the Middle and Western States.

Where are cotton, rice and sugar cultivated ?

In the Southern States.

What is generally the character of the agricultural class ?

Industry, morality, and general intelligence.

Has commerce added much to the wealth of the country ?

It has very much.

What other sources of profit are enjoyed by the States ?

The cod and whale fisheries.

Are manufacturers encouraged to a considerable extent ?

They are mostly in the Eastern States, and in Pennsylvania.

Are there any public works worthy of especial notice in the United States ?

There are many.

Name a few of them.

The National Turnpike, running through Maryland, Virginia and Ohio, by the United States' government—the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, by several of the State governments—the Pennsylvania Canals and Rail-Roads, by that State—Canal and Rail-Roads in several other States—and last, not least, Grand Erie Canal of New York.

What of the Erie Canal ?

It connects the waters of Lake Erie, at Buffalo, with the waters of the Hudson, at Albany.

What is the difference in height between those waters ?

Lake Erie lies 550 feet above the level of the tide water in the Hudson.

What is the length and general size of the Canal ?

It is 360 miles in length, and its general dimensions are 40 feet wide at the top, 28 feet wide at the bottom, and having 4 feet of water.

What of the tow path for the horses that draw the boats ?

It is generally 10 feet wide, raised from 2 to 5 feet above the level of the Canal, and is fenced and bridged, where necessary, at the expense of the State.

Are there any long levels, or places where it was not necessary to erect locks on this Canal ?

There is a level of 65 miles from Lockport to the Genesee river, and another of 69 1-2 miles from Syracuse to Frankfort, 9 1-2 miles East of Utica.

How long was the State employed in constructing it ?

It was begun in 1817, and its whole course was finished in 1825.

What was its cost ?

Nine millions, twenty-seven thousand and fifty-six dollars.

Who deserves the credit of carrying the work through by his energy, genius, and perseverance ?

De Witt Clinton.

What effect had this Canal on the settlement of the country, through which it runs ?

Lands, wild and worth but a mere trifle, were settled, cultivated, and became valuable farms—villages scarcely known, became depots for produce and rapidly increased into cities—and all along the Canal the wilderness was changed into busy, wealthy and neat villages, redolent with wealth and comfort.

Is there any instance of the general improvement and prosperity worthy of notice ?

Yes ; the city of Utica.

When was it settled ?

In 1789 ; by a few families only.

What was its increase ?

In 1794 it had increased to 20 families, living in a less number of houses—in 1813 it contained only 1,700 souls—in 1820 it had a population of 2,972—and at the present time upwards of 15,000.

What of the land on which it stands, and in its vicinity ?

From being a marsh, into which, in many places, a man might easily thrust a rail its full length, the land by cultivation, has settled, become firm and valuable, and all this before the stumps of the forest, in the city, have all decayed or been removed from it.

Is the first house yet standing ?

The first framed building is now a comfortable dwelling—the second is used as an out-building—one of the first settlers, the builder of the first brick house, the master builders of the oldest churches, the man who

felled the timber for the erection of the first bridge (erected here) over the Mohawk, and the first president of the village, (1798,) were still living in 1831.

What is the general amount of travelling centreing in Utica?

There are 92 mail arrivals; 91 stage arrivals, and (during the season) 41 packet arrivals weekly, besides the private and common boat conveyances, which are very great.

What is its literary character?

Besides its Lyceum, Medical and other Associations, and 33 schools, it has 5 or 6 bookstores, 9 printeries, employing about 20 presses, and issuing about 90,000 periodical papers every month.

What of the laws and institutions of the United States?

Being devised by the people, immediately through their representatives, they were intended for the benefit of the people. Every institution is more popular in its form, less aristocratic or exclusive than similar ones in Europe. The laws are milder, better calculated to reform, and less liable to gratify the malice or cruelty of the revengeful.

How many crimes are yet punished with death?

By the United States' laws, treason and robbery of the mail are punished with death.

What of the several States?

They differ; in Pennsylvania, but one crime (murder in the first degree) is thus punished—in New York, two (murder and arson) are thus punished—and in some of the States even five crimes are punished with death.

How is it, in this respect, in Great Britain?

Crimes that here are punished with imprisonment for a few years, are there expiated by death only.

What is the effect of such severity in the laws?

Of the criminals found guilty, but very few suffer, owing to the superior humanity of the people over their laws; thus the punishments are uncertain, and crime is encouraged.

What facts warrant this belief?

The increase of crime in England with the increase of their sanguinary laws; and the decrease of crime in

this country, as our laws decrease in severity and increase in certainty.

What effect have severe laws on persons other than the criminals?

They excite a spirit of brutality and inhumanity, or on the other hand, a feeling of such commiseration for the sufferer, as to destroy, in a great measure, the beneficial tendency of the same.

Then the abolition of the whipping-post, stocks and pillory was beneficial to the community?

Decidedly so; for as these did not lessen crime, but brutalized the feelings of the vulgar, and shocked the humanity of the good, their abolition was harmless to the criminal, and a great benefit to all others.

What is the difference between the system of education in the United States and Great Britain?

The Universities of Great Britain are accessible only to the rich, while in the United States every effort has been made to bring a good education within the reach of all.

Have the legislatures of the different States endeavored to promote this object?

Yes; many of them have appropriated considerable funds for the support of schools.

How are schools supported in Massachusetts?

A law was passed as early as 1647, that a school should be supported by a public tax, in every town containing fifty families.

What is the School Fund of Connecticut?

One million, seven hundred thousand dollars.

How is the money appropriated?

It is distributed in the several school districts, according to the number of scholars that attend the school.

What has been the effect of this system?

Scarcely a person can be found not qualified by education to contract the common business of life.

Is there any noted free school in this State?

Yes; Bacon Academy, at Colchester.

When was this school founded?

In the year 1800.

From whence does it derive its name?

It is named after its benefactor and founder, Mr.

Pierpont Bacon, who gave thirty-five thousand dollars for its support.

What branches are taught in the school?

All the higher branches of an English education. This institution has ever been considered one of the most respectable and flourishing in the State.

Who is its present principal?

Mr. Myron N. Morris, a very able and competent person.

What is the School Fund of New York?

In the year 1820 it amounted to 1,215,000 dollars.

Have any provisions been made to increase this fund?

Yes; the unsold and unappropriated lands of the State when disposed of, are to be devoted to the same laudable purpose.

What will probably be the amount of these lands?

About one million more.

How many children were taught in Common Schools in the year 1821?

Three hundred and thirty-three thousand; a number nearly equal to all the children in the State between the ages of five and fifteen years.

How many in the year 1823?

Four hundred thousand.

What is done for the education of children in Virginia?

Although their School Fund is of recent origin, and its income small, yet most of the rising generation are instructed in private schools by domestic teachers, yet these schools do not provide for the education of the poor.

Has the national government made provision for the support of Schools?

Yes; in offering their public lands for sale, they have made a reservation, in every township, of 640 acres for the support of schools.

Has much benefit as yet arisen from them?

No; but they promise to be powerful auxiliaries when the new States shall become more thickly settled.

Are there many schools of higher order?

In the New-England States almost every town furnishes an Academy, many of which have considerable funds, extensive libraries, and other apparatus.

What sciences are taught in Academies?

English Grammar, Composition, Rhetoric, History, Philosophy, Chemistry, Mathematics and the Latin and Greek languages ; they are considered as schools preparatory to a collegiate course, yet many of these being taught by those who have obtained degrees, all the sciences are taught that are usually required in the Colleges themselves.

Is the Academy at Exeter, in New-Hampshire, richly endowed ?

Yes ; its funds amount to 80,000 dollars ; its library contains 700 volumes, and it has a handsome philosophical apparatus.

Which is the oldest College in the United States ?

Harvard College, at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

When was it founded ?

In the year 1638 ; only 18 years after the first settlement at Plymouth ; an evidence of the high reputation in which learning was held by the early settlers of this country.

From whom did it derive its name ?

From Rev. John Harvard, one of the principal founders.

What was the number of graduates in the first class ?

Nine.

What is its present state ?

In 1824 its faculty consisted of a President and 20 Professors ; its library contains 25,000 volumes.

To what is its prosperity owing ?

Principally to the learning and zeal of its able Professors.

When was Yale College founded ?

It was first established at Saybrook, but in 1716 it was removed to New-Haven, in Connecticut.

Who was its principal founder ?

Mr. Elihu Yale, a merchant in London, who made it a donation of four thousand dollars.

Who was another of its distinguished patrons ?

Bishop Berkley, the celebrated metaphysician ; he gave to the library about 1,000 volumes, and a farm in Newport, renting for 240 bushels of wheat annually.

Whence has it derived its other resources ?

Some from the State of Connecticut, and from donations from individuals.

Is it at present in a flourishing state ?

Its library consists of 9,000 volumes ; its faculty consists of a President and 11 Professors, and the number of students nearly 400.

Is it a highly valuable literary institution ?

Among the most so in the Union ; it has ever had distinguished men for its Presidents, among whom was the late Dr. Dwight, the champion and honor of his age as a scholar and divine.

What is the whole number of Colleges and Universities authorized to confer degrees ?

Fifty.

What are the sciences taught ?

The English, Latin and Greek languages, Rhetoric, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, Logic, Chemistry, Astronomy, History and Geography ; in some of them are also taught the Hebrew, Oriental and Modern European Languages, Anatomy, Surgery, Medicine, Botany, Polite Literature, Divinity, Ethics, Natural and Municipal Law, Politics and Elocution.

What are the principal seminaries of learning in New York ?

Columbia College in the city ; University of New-York, also in the city ; Union College, Schenectady ; Hamilton College, Clinton, Oneida co. ; Geneva College, Geneva ; the Baptist Seminary, at Hamilton, the Methodist Seminary, at Cazenovia ; besides many other institutions of less note, but perhaps equal excellence.

These are under the patronage of some denomination of Christians ; is there none which is equally open to all of every sect, without requiring conformity to the doctrines or attendance on the worship of any in particular ?

There is one located at Clinton, Oneida co. which is truly literary in its object, and unsectarian in its regulations.

What was it called, and when was it commenced ?

It is to be known by the style and title of The Clinton Liberal Institute—and was commenced fully in both the male and female departments in 1831.

Which is probably the largest female Seminary in New York ?

Mrs. Willard's, situated on the public square in the

city of Troy. It is a plain, but spacious brick edifice, and has acquired considerable celebrity, not only throughout the United States, but also abroad.

What is the general number of its pupils?

About two hundred young ladies from different parts of this, and occasionally from foreign countries, usually attend here and receive the advantages of an accomplished education, under the auspices of Mrs. Willard, the principal and founder of the school.

Is there any other distinguished Female School in this city?

Yes; there is one other, under the supervision of Mrs. M. Richards and her daughters, kept in the 4th Ward. This School is also deservedly popular; it contains about 150 scholars and is, under its present judicious management, rapidly increasing in public favor.

Is Troy a considerable place?

Its location at the head of the sloop navigation on the Hudson—and also near the junction of the Champlain and Erie Canals, renders its trade considerable.

What was its population in 1810?

About three thousand eight hundred souls.

What in 1820?

About five thousand three hundred.

What at the present time?

Nearly 20,000.

What is the character of its merchants?

They are noted for enterprise, industry and intelligence.

Have they any trade besides that of the river and Canals?

Yes; considerable with Vermont and Massachusetts.

What is the character of its inhabitants generally?

As there are many good schools here, and the place is pleasantly located, Troy is the favorite residence of many families of retired habits and competent fortunes; of course the society is of a high moral and literary character.

Is there any other school of note here?

Yes; the Van Rensselaer School is located here.

For what sex is it intended?

For Young Men.

Is there any branch of education which does not receive its appropriate share of attention in the United States?

That of Elocution; although it is attended to in a degree, yet it is manifest that the attention paid to it is far below its importance in the scale of education.

What grade of attention ought to be paid to the art of speaking?

It ought evidently to receive the first attention.

What reason can be given for this?

As the majority who receive an education are expected to become public speakers, any person of the least observation must see the importance of this qualification.

Have the most eminent and useful men bestowed particular attention upon this branch of education?

They have; many instances could be given of this. Demosthenes, of Greece; Cicero, of Rome; Pitt, of England; Mr. Ames and others, of our own country, will ever grace the temple of fame; while hundreds of others, who might have possessed all their other attainments, have lived and died in obscurity.

Has the remark often been made that the United States have produced no eminent scholars?

It has.

Is this just?

It is doubtless true, when compared with a few ornaments of the old world.

Have we any historians equal to Hume or Robertson; any poets equal to Milton or Pope; any chemists equal to Levoiser or Davy; or any metaphysicians equal to Locke, Berkley or Reid?

We have not,—who equal these eminent luminaries; but very few of such men are furnished by any nation.

Does this fact argue any thing against our national character?

It does not; it must be recollected that our country is yet in its infancy; that for a great while it was either struggling against oppression, or under the embarrassments occasioned by the struggle for its independence, and that it has not had ability to endow institutions of learning equal to those of our mother country.

Is it, however, true that we have none who have distinguished themselves for science?

This is not true, by any means; we can probably boast of as many men, in proportion to our population, who have a liberal knowledge of the Languages, Philosophy and Mathematics as Great Britain. In addition to this fact even in the infancy of our country, there is

undoubtedly altogether more information among the middle and lower classes of society than among the same classes there.

Is America able to compete, in any degree, with Great Britain, in point of important discoveries in the useful arts?

In really important discoveries we probably equal them.

What are some of the important discoveries of which the English may boast?

Mr. Arkwright invented the spinning-wheel; Worcester, Newcoman and Watt, substituted steam for wind and water in propelling the machinery of manufactories.

What are some of the important inventions of the Americans?

Mr. Godfry invented the Mariner's Quadrant; Franklin invented the rod which protects our houses from lightning; Whittemore invented the machine for making cards; Whitney invented the Gin for cleaning cotton; Perkins invented the nail machine, and Fulton applied the power of steam to purposes of navigation.

Have the United States furnished any historians of merit?

The Histories of Marshall, Barnsey, Belknap, Williams, Mrs. Willard of Troy, New-York, and the annals of Holmes, are works of sterling merit, and some of them, in point of style and as affording useful and instructive matter, are inferior to no others.

What was the character of Dr. Franklin as a writer?

Probably no uninspired man has ever furnished more important advice applicable to the ordinary concerns of life.

Have we any distinguished novelists?

Brown and Cooper are probably not exceeded by any.

Have we any distinguished theologians?

Hopkins, Dwight, Lathrop, Davis, Kollock, Buckminster, Beecher, Taylor, Chauncey and Channing are deservedly eminent. The theological works of Dr. Dwight have obtained the most favorable notices and recommendations from the British themselves, and are read and approved by many of their most eminent divines.

Have we not one who stands even before these?

Yes; the works of Dr. Edwards probably are inferior to none of the kind in the world. The greatest and best



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of men here and on the
him only in terms of unqualified respect.

Have we furnished any distinguished political writers?

We have a number, of which no country need to be
ashamed; we will, however, mention but one, of whom
we think that we may justly boast—the late THOMAS
JEFFERSON.

Thomas Jefferson.

Catechism